



**August 2013 RVC Column  
by RVC Greg Kontz**

Hi, Region #7.

Time flies—time again for an RVC column.

It seems like there are times when the muse is active. Then there are times when she's not. This time, I'll have to shake her a bit—see if I can wake her up. At any rate, here goes: The last month has been hectic. While there are some advantages to being a LocSec and RVC at the same time, it does make things a bit challenging also.

One of the things that I'd like to share with you is what we've recently done in the North Dakota group (07/585).

Two months ago we had an RG that drew 45 people from 9 states. This was in a group with 80 members.

About a month ago, we finally got our Bylaws revision approved and sent it to the members for balloting and comment.

A couple of weeks ago, we got a new website up and running.

A week ago, we had a strategic planning meeting, and got a proposed vision/mission/core values/goals statement put together.

A week ago, we chose the new site for our June 2014 RG. During an apparent psychotic episode, I agreed to host it in my hometown.

My main observation as LocSec during all this was that, while there was often a difference of opinion, the group kept moving forward. My other observation was that the level of civility remained pretty high. Nobody went the “ad hominem” route, got profane, or loud.

Speaking as a LocSec—it was a great experience. A bit tiring, to be sure—but pretty positive. Which brings me to my point—regarding ExComms and Mensa officers in general. None of us are doing it for the fame or fortune. If you've been an officer for any length of time, you realize that. We do this because we enjoy the company of the other people in the organization. We do this because we believe in the concepts of the organization.

So—why not be polite with each other and have some fun doing it? It doesn't mean that everybody agrees. It doesn't mean that there can't be any confrontation or questions. It does mean that the group

seeks and encourages light—not heat. It does mean that the group encourages, nurtures, and mentors each other. They don't discourage, disparage, and try to 'win' discussions. The easiest thing to do is come up with all the reasons that you think a change or new thing won't work. The hard thing is to listen to ideas and, after some civil discussion, decide on a path to take.

Once you get to where maintaining the "status quo" is NOT what you're all about—fun stuff can happen.

Thanks, guys.

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